



# FEBRUARY 2025

## IMPROVE I-70 MONTHLY REPORT

Missouri's FY2024 budget approved through the state legislative process and governor provides \$2.8 billion in General Revenue to build a third lane of I-70 across the state from Blue Springs to Wentzville.



### WARRENTON TO WENTZVILLE PUBLIC HEARING RECAP

Earlier this month, the Improve I-70 Program Team presented the basic design plans to over 300 people at the public hearings for the second project of the Improve I-70 Program, Warrenton to Wentzville. These meetings, held in both Warrenton (Feb. 3) and Wentzville (Feb. 6), highlighted traffic control plans, schedule, and anticipated construction impacts of the project. Engineers from MoDOT and the contractor team, the Improve 70 Alliance, were present to meet with the public and answer questions.

Overall feedback was positive and many who attended were supportive of the third lane in each direction on I-70. There was also shared excitement and nervousness about construction beginning for this project this spring. The project team is committed to providing regular construction updates via press releases, social media, and the project website. To receive this information, sign up for e-mails via the webform on the project website.

If you were unable to attend the meetings in person, you are invited to review the materials and provide comments now through March 6 at: [www.modot.org/improvei70/warrentonwentzville](http://www.modot.org/improvei70/warrentonwentzville)



*Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville public hearings were held on Feb. 3 and Feb. 6 in Warrenton and Wentzville.*

### WARRENTON TO WENTZVILLE GROUNDBREAKING - MARCH 20

The Improve I-70: Warrenton to Wentzville project team is planning to hold a ceremonious groundbreaking event on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 10 a.m. at the closed eastbound I-70 weigh station in Foristell. Additional details about this event will be posted the project website. The event will also be livestreamed on the [MoDOT - St. Louis Facebook page](#).

### COLUMBIA TO KINGDOM CITY: COLD WEATHER & CONSTRUCTION



*Barrier wall work and excavation for the new underpass on U.S. 63.*

Construction of the Columbia to Kingdom City project is underway but extreme cold temperatures at night and a handful of snow events have slowed the overall progress. Crews are eagerly waiting for warmer temperatures so they can keep the project on schedule. Come spring and/or warmer weather, construction activities will continue with concrete paving overnight on eastbound I-70 between Callaway County Routes J and M, as well bridge work on southbound U.S. Route 63 for the construction of a new bridge/underpass. Learn more about upcoming construction plans at [www.modot.org/improvei70/columbiakingdomcity](http://www.modot.org/improvei70/columbiakingdomcity).

### DESIGN EFFORTS CONTINUE ALONG I-70

For the projects now under contract within the Improve I-70 Program, one of the most critical project tasks is design coordination. While most of this work happens behind the scenes, this is the first step before field crews can start work. On the Columbia to Kingdom City project, design firm Jacobs is leading the effort with WSP as a major subconsultant. The Warrenton to Wentzville project has HNTB as the lead designer with Bartlett and West as the major subconsultant. These firms have delivered designs routinely for MoDOT throughout the state.

[www.modot.org/improvei70](http://www.modot.org/improvei70)

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## IMPROVE I-70 PROJECT DESIGN Q&A

The two projects currently under contract within the Improve I-70 Program (Columbia to Kingdom City and Warrenton to Wentzville) are being delivered via Design-Build procurement style. MoDOT hires one contracting team to complete the design work and build the highway improvement under one contract. MoDOT provides the project goals, budget and schedule and the selected contractor team completes the work. This is a massive undertaking combining design and construction expertise from all around the state. We asked both teams working on the two current projects about their design process. Here's what they had to say:

### COLUMBIA TO KINGDOM CITY:

Dan Morris - Jacobs Project Manager



### WARRENTON TO WENTZVILLE:

Jeff Smith - HNTB Design Manager



#### How many total people from the design team are currently working to deliver this project? Who are the design leads?

"Currently we have approximately 100 design professionals and technicians working on the I-70 Columbia to Kingdom City project. During the preliminary design peak, we had over 150 individuals supporting the design. The design leads are Jacobs and WSP out of St. Louis."

"Approximately 120 people are working to design Warrenton to Wentzville. The design leads are HNTB out of Kansas City and Bartlett & West out of Jefferson City."

#### How many other design firms/companies are working on the project?

"Seven total firms."

"Eight total firms."

#### Your companies have worked on some of the most high-profile projects around the state and country. Why were you interested in I-70 with so much other work out there?

"This is an historic high-profile project located in Missouri and our local staff enjoys working on local projects that have direct impact on the lives of their families, friends, and neighbors. We are Missourians and interested in improving I-70 to benefit those that travel along and across the interstate."

"MoDOT is a great client and we want to deliver for them. This is a high profile project that will help all citizens of Missouri and we want to be part of that. We have folks that have worked all over the country, but live here and we drive this corridor all the time."

#### What's the biggest challenge about designing your I-70 project?

"Accelerated schedule, right-of-way, remaining flexible and open to changes that occur along the way, communication, and developing a design that can be constructed with minimal impact to users of I-70 and adjacent properties."

"From a wholistic perspective, finding a solution which meets the traffic needs, constructability challenges and balancing public desires the best we can."

#### Do you have any fun or interesting aspects about the design process for I-70 you'd like to share?

"This project is the first of its kind in Missouri. We are excited to be selected and delivering on the first of many I-70 projects across the state. Many important design/construction elements were discussed with MoDOT in the pursuit of this first project that have set the standard for this project and others that follow."

"Having the opportunity to collaborate with MoDOT, contractor, and the designer all around the table together pushes us all to find innovative solutions and pushes us to be creative in a way that you don't experience in traditional projects."